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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[17 October 1994]

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahirya welcomes the continuous interest accorded by the General Assembly to the strengthening of peace and security in the Mediterranean region and urges the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this subject, particularly in relation to the closing down of foreign military bases in the region and the withdrawal of foreign military fleets therefrom. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that the continued existence of such bases and fleets constitutes a danger to the peace and security of the States of the region and prevents the provision of security for their peoples. Moreover, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that Israeli nuclear armament is a major factor in the insecurity and growing tension in the region. It believes that true security in the Mediterranean region and making it a region free of weapons of mass destruction would be achieved by Israeli adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its acceptance of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system, with the destruction, under international supervision, of all the nuclear weapons in its possession, estimated to comprise more than 200 warheads.

2. The General Assembly in its resolutions has reaffirmed the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in upholding and promoting peace and security in the region. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya endorses the view expressed by the General Assembly and reiterates its readiness to continue action in this context by encouraging the dialogue between the competent groups of the States of the region, including the "five plus five" group and the "twelve plus five" group, and through the coordination of efforts to achieve greater cooperation in the field of economic development, the transfer of technology, the combating of drought and desertification and the protection of the marine environment and outer space from pollution, as well as efforts to promote cultural relations and encourage rapprochement. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that meetings of the groups of States of the region or at other levels should be attended by all States members of such groups and that none of the States should be marginalized or disregarded, if security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region is to be achieved collectively and if their objectives are to be attained, namely, to serve the peoples of the region and protect their stability.

3. In accordance with its positive position regarding the strengthening of cooperation in the Mediterranean region, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has participated in action to strengthen and uphold relations between the countries of the region on the basis of the principles of independence, regional integrity, mutual respect and non-intervention in internal affairs. It will strive with all its capabilities for the achievement of economic complementarity between the States of the southern shore of the Mediterranean, as an initial step towards more comprehensive complementarity between the States of the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has taken many steps in this direction, but its efforts have been hindered by the sanctions imposed on the Libyan people for nearly three years, which have resulted in many human tragedies and overwhelming economic losses.

4. It is cause for concern that there are indications that there is a premeditated intention to maintain the sanctions as long as possible, because, if the purpose of these sanctions was compliance with the demands of the Security Council in its resolution 731 (1992), Libya has cooperated in every way to achieve such compliance. It has shown flexibility and has accepted proposals designed to achieve full compliance, in particular the recent proposal submitted by the League of Arab States calling for the trial of the two men suspected of involvement in the Pan American flight 103 incident by a Scottish court, under Scottish law and at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Libya has also cooperated with the French magistrate entrusted with investigating the UTA flight incident. All this should be taken into consideration, and efforts should be made to find a swift and just resolution of the dispute between Libya, on the one hand, and France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, on the other, that would lead to the complete lifting of the sanctions, because their continuation will add to the accumulated economic problems and, consequently, threaten peace and security in the region; the impact of these sanctions has not been confined to the Libyan people alone but has extended also to Libya's neighbours and the Mediterranean region as a whole.